

Duvall Hosts Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on Tour of Innovative Groundwater Replenishment System

**Local Assemblyman presented county's
one-of-a-kind water conservation program**

SACRAMENTO —Assemblyman Michael D. Duvall (R-Yorba Linda) took Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on a tour of Orange County's landmark Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) Friday.

"Orange County's water recycling program demonstrates one of the critical, most useful solutions to California's looming water crisis. We cannot afford to pump water 300 miles over the mountains and dump it in the ocean. This program is good for the environment, and it saves energy too," Lieutenant John Garamendi, former Deputy Interior Secretary in the Clinton Administration, said.

The Groundwater Replenishment System—which officially came online a year ago on January 25th, 2008—takes effluent from the Orange County Sanitation District and meticulously treats it beyond drinking water standards using advanced membrane purification facilities in Fountain Valley, California. This water is then used to improve the supply and quality of water in Orange County's groundwater basin and expand the existing underground seawater intrusion barrier.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunity to take the Lieutenant Governor on this tour, so he can see firsthand what Orange County has done to take care of its own water needs," stated Assemblyman Duvall. "John is personally very interested in water issues and being aware of all the options out there to address this problem. Amidst an ongoing drought and broken Delta, it is crucial that we get creative in trying to solve California's water crisis. The GWRS does just that by taking a heretofore neglected water source and putting it to use for Orange County—what I like to call 'Showers to Flowers'."

Prior to his election to the California State Assembly in November of 2006, Mike Duvall served on the board of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), which partnered with the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to construct the Groundwater Replenishment System. The OCSD and OCWD facilities are located adjacent to each other in Fountain Valley, to facilitate the easy transport of treated water to spreading grounds and injection wells in Anaheim.